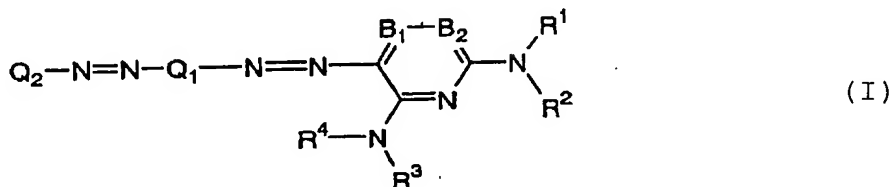


**What is claimed is:**

1. An optical information-recording medium comprising:  
a support; and  
a recording layer capable of recording information by  
laser beam exposure,

wherein the recording layer contains a dye represented  
by the following formula (I):

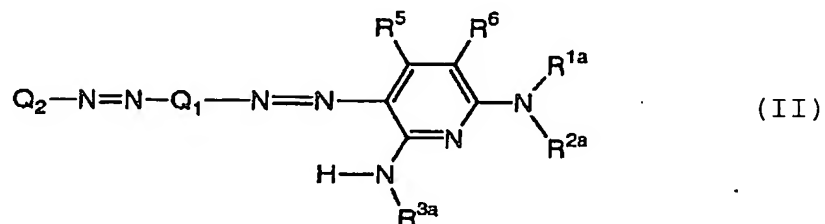


wherein  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$ ,  $R^3$  and  $R^4$  each independently represents a hydrogen atom or a substituent;  $B_1$  and  $B_2$  represent  $=CR^5-$  and  $-CR^6=$  respectively, or one of  $B_1$  and  $B_2$  represents a nitrogen atom and the other represents  $=CR^5-$  or  $-CR^6=$ ;  $R^5$  and  $R^6$  each independently represents a hydrogen atom or a substituent;  $Q_1$  represents a substituted or unsubstituted arylene group, or a substituted or unsubstituted divalent heterocyclic group; and  $Q_2$  represents a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group, or a substituted or unsubstituted heterocyclic group.

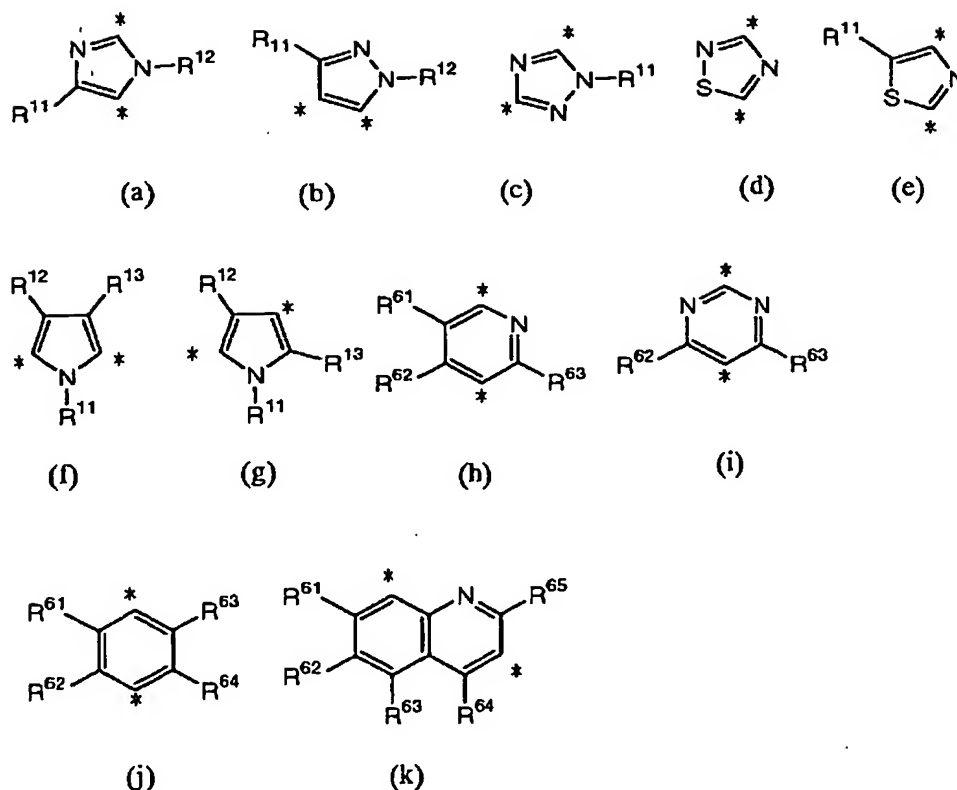
2. The optical information-recording medium as claimed in claim 1, wherein  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$ ,  $R^3$  and  $R^4$  each independently represents a hydrogen atom, a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group,

a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group, or a substituted or unsubstituted heterocyclic group.

3. The optical information-recording medium as claimed in claim 1, wherein the dye contained in the recording layer is represented by the following formula (II):



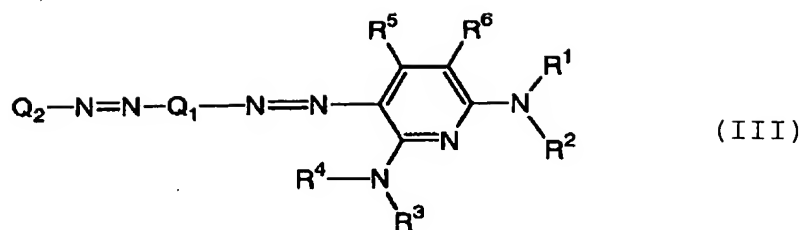
wherein  $\text{R}^{1a}$ ,  $\text{R}^{2a}$  and  $\text{R}^{3a}$  each independently represent a hydrogen atom, a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group, or a substituted or unsubstituted heterocyclic group;  $\text{R}^5$  and  $\text{R}^6$  each independently represent a hydrogen atom or a substituent;  $\text{Q}_2$  represents a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group, or a substituted or unsubstituted heterocyclic group; and  $\text{Q}_1$  represents a divalent linking group selected from the following formulae (a) to (k) having positions (\*) that are linkable with the azo groups in formula (II) in any direction:



wherein  $R^{11}$ ,  $R^{12}$ ,  $R^{13}$ ,  $R^{61}$ ,  $R^{62}$ ,  $R^{63}$ ,  $R^{64}$  and  $R^{65}$  each represents a hydrogen atom or a substituent.

4. An optical information-recording medium comprising:  
 a support; and  
 a recording layer capable of recording information by  
 laser beam exposure,

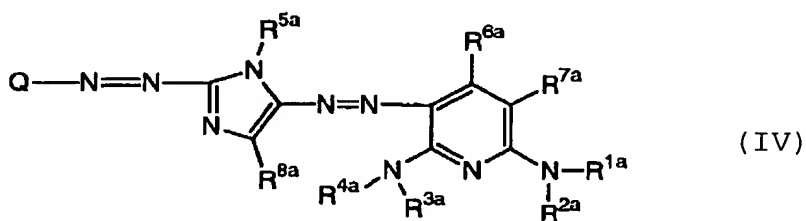
wherein the recording layer contains a metal azo chelate  
 dye comprising: a dye represented by the following formula (III);  
 and at least one of a metal and a metal oxide:



wherein  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$ ,  $R^3$  and  $R^4$  each independently represents a hydrogen atom or a substituent;  $R^5$  and  $R^6$  each independently represents a hydrogen atom or a substituent;  $Q_1$  represents a substituted or unsubstituted arylene group, or a substituted or unsubstituted divalent heterocyclic group; and  $Q_2$  represents a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group, or a substituted or unsubstituted heterocyclic group.

5. The optical information-recording medium as claimed in claim 1, wherein the recording layer including the dye has a refractive index ( $n$ ) of  $2.0 < n < 2.7$ , and an extinction coefficient ( $k$ ) of  $0.03 < k < 0.10$ .

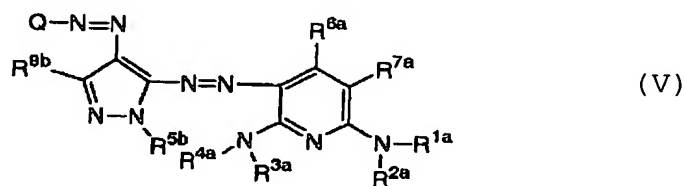
6. A dye represented by the following formula (IV):



wherein  $R^{1a}$ ,  $R^{2a}$ ,  $R^{3a}$ ,  $R^{4a}$  and  $R^{5a}$  each independently represents

a hydrogen atom, a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group, or a substituted or unsubstituted heterocyclic group;  $R^{6a}$ ,  $R^{7a}$  and  $R^{8a}$  each independently represents a hydrogen atom or a substituent; and Q represents a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group, or a substituted or unsubstituted heterocyclic group.

7. A dye represented by the following formula (V):



wherein  $R^{1a}$ ,  $R^{2a}$ ,  $R^{3a}$ ,  $R^{4a}$  and  $R^{5b}$  each independently represents a hydrogen atom, a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group, or a substituted or unsubstituted heterocyclic group;  $R^{6a}$ ,  $R^{7a}$  and  $R^{8b}$  each independently represents a hydrogen atom or a substituent; and Q represents a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group, or a substituted or unsubstituted heterocyclic group.